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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D.C.

January 19, 1954

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

SUBJECT: PSB D-44, Coordinated Information Program for the Far East

The OCB working group has considered this matter and particularly in the light of Mr. Streibert's recommendations following his trip through the area, submits the following conclusions:

1. In general, agency coordination in information programs and activities in the Far East is adequate and is functioning satisfactorily.
2. Available facilities are being utilized satisfactorily. In the case of recently created facilities planning is actively underway to increase utilization.
3. The proposed expansion of USIA programs in Thailand, Burma, and the Associated States, reductions in the Philippines and revisions in Malaya correspond with the priorities established for the general area by recent NSC decisions.
4. Continuance of psychological warfare programs in Tokyo with inter-agency coordination is essential.
5. The working group recommends to the OCB that this report be considered as fulfilling its assigned mission and, that if the report is accepted by the Board, the working group be dissolved. It further recommends that future problems of policy or coordination in respect to information programs in any given sector of this area be referred to the OCB working group having responsibility for that sector.

The annex sets forth in greater detail the group's findings in the several parts of the overall question assigned to it by the OCB.

NSC & STATE Declassification/Release Instructions on File

F. O. Bundy
Frederic O. Bundy
Chairman

OCB Working Group on PSB D-44

Attachment: Annex to Report

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January 19, 1954

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

SUBJECT: Annex to Report of Working Group on PSB D-44, Coordinated
Information Program for the Far East

The instructions to the working group related primarily to the intensification of the information program in the Far East principally through more effective utilization of all available facilities.

The working group identified the major problems for exploration and has the following report to make:

1. Psychological Warfare Coordination - Japan and Korea:

a. USIA had been informed that CINCPAC Psywar might have an excess capacity which could be used to increase radio programming over transmitter JOHN located in Okinawa. In view of the renewal of the contract with the Japanese broadcasting system providing for several hours each evening of both medium and shortwave broadcasting, the staff of Psywar in Tokyo is, in fact, fully occupied. There had been in Tokyo the impression that USIA required additional radio programming resources for transmitter JOHN beyond that which USIA could provide. The working group found no definite requirement for such resources. Steps are being taken by USIA to increase its programming schedule of JOHN beyond the present four hours and forty-five minutes. In terms of available technical personnel to operate the transmitter some five hours can be added.

b. With regard to field coordination in Tokyo, USIA guidances are followed by Tokyo operators. There is in existence in Tokyo a Psychological Coordinating Board chaired by the Public Affairs Officer representing the Ambassador. The group includes representatives from USIS, Army Psychological Warfare, Chief of Staff-Far East Command [REDACTED]. A review of this mechanism leads to the conclusion that it is adequate for purposes of information and psychological operations coordination.

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It is believed that coordination between interested elements in Korea and their counter-parts in Japan can best be handled through periodic trips rather than official representation on the Tokyo Committee.

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c. As a result of conversations between Mr. Streibert, Director of USIA, and Colonel K. K. Hansen, Chief of Army Psywar in Tokyo, it was suggested that Psywar Tokyo should be authorized to extend all possible support to USIS in Korea on a mutually satisfactory basis. Appropriate action has been taken by the Department of Defense through Army Psywar.

2. Coordination of Information Operations in Korea:

Consideration of coordination of information operations in Korea was highlighted by a meeting with Mr. Tyler Wood, Economic Coordinator, United Nations Command. It was agreed that USIA would give highest priority to the assignment of qualified personnel to Korea in order that one specific individual could be assigned virtually full time to the economic mission to assure appropriate publicity and exploitation of rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. Furthermore, a new PAO to arrive in Korea on January 23, 1954 has been instructed to establish a formal coordinating committee on which would be represented all American official agencies operating in Korea. One committee would assure that these agencies make a coordinated effort to get the maximum psychological advantage in Korea from U.S. economic assistance in the reconstruction period. Detailed plans for establishing the basis for implementing this instruction are being developed and will be transmitted to the PAO. Up to this time coordination has been carried on through ad hoc and informal arrangements.

3. USIA Reprogramming in the Far East:

Based upon new directives to USIA emanating from the National Security Council and Psychological Strategy Board and its successor, the Operations Coordinating Board, USIA has reviewed its program in all Far Eastern countries. The results of this reprogramming are as follows:

a. Thailand. In accordance with PSB D-23, USIA has strengthened its program in Thailand. \$280,000 additional funds have been made available to Thailand and adjacent areas for the remainder of fiscal year 1954. Of this total \$155,000 will be available for Thailand (\$110,000 is available for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and \$15,000 for Burma). The personnel complement for Thailand is being increased from 17 to 30. A new PAO has been assigned to Thailand (Mr. Meader, more recently PAO in Singapore). A qualified Information Officer has been transferred directly from Manila to Bangkok and a Press Officer has been transferred from Tokyo. The program expansion provides for three additional offices (Korat, Ubon, Nong Khai) in Northeast Thailand and increased program activities will emphasize press, publications, and motion pictures. There will be an increased distribution of publications through Buddhist organizations. Motion picture activity will include production of documentaries, newsreels, and shorts. A moderate expansion in radio programming will be supplemented by the distribution of community receiving sets.

b. Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia: The expansion in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia provides for additional personnel to bring the present

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complement of eighteen to 30. \$110,000 additional program funds will be available for the build-up during the remainder of FY 1954. One new branch office in each of Laos (Savannakhet) and Cambodia (Battambang) will be established. Program activities will concentrate on operations in support of psychological warfare efforts in the Vietnamese and French forces fighting in Vietnam. There will be an increased level of press, publications and other media in Hanoi. Activities will be broadened in Hue and Vientiane. There will be moderate expansion of radio programming. New posts in Laos and Cambodia will provide additional outlets for press and publications material, make more effective personal contact work, and provide an additional listening post of value not only to USIA but to other American agencies.

c. Burma. In order to counter increasing communist propaganda, particularly in the schools, in the Shan States (Northeast Burma) and the potential political attraction of Shans for the Chinese Communist autonomous state in Southwestern Yunnan, USIA has authorized expansion of its program in that area. Rangoon has been authorized to find quarters at Tsunggyi where a branch will be opened as soon as the Embassy obtains approval from the Foreign Office. One additional American officer and eight local employees will be assigned to operate this branch. Additional funds have been authorized for fiscal year 1954 in the amount of \$15,000.

d. Philippines. In view of the relatively favorable psychological climate now existing in the Philippines, the USIS program in that country will be reduced. There will be less emphasis on provincial activities, local radio, and local motion picture production. In addition, the quantity of press and publications material will be lessened in terms of a year ago. The American personnel complement will be reduced from 17 to 13.

e. Singapore and the Federation of Malaya. Anticipating British plans to prepare the Malay States for self government, the USIS program will be directed toward assuring that the climate of the emerging new state will be anti-communist and sympathetic to U.S. foreign policy considerations. The USIS headquarters will be moved to Kuala Lumpur, de-emphasizing Singapore. Information programs will be undertaken at the request of British authorities to assist the British effort to keep labor and other significant elements from falling under Communist control.

f. Korea. The high priority already attached to the overall program in Korea will be maintained. However, there would be no increase in shortwave radio transmissions. Limiting factors are the lack of electricity and the extremely small number of receiving sets. USIA, therefore, does not intend to increase its use of this medium.

g. Transmitter JADE. This megawatt medium wave transmitter, located in the Philippines, has been operating on half power since transmissions started. In about two months it will go on full power.

The following language programs, originating in New York, are transmitted over JADE: Mandarin, Amoy, Cantonese, Thai, English, Vietnamese, and Burmese. Total broadcast time is five hours. In terms of available personnel to operate the transmitter some five hours can be added. A start is being made on local production of radio programming material at JADE. Program material is sent by pouch to JADE from VOA/New York and from each of the overseas posts in Southeast Asia, including Hong Kong and Formosa. These programs could be shipped to transmitter JOHN and other points where they might be effectively used.

h. Overseas Chinese. The Agency has tentative plans for a meeting of its Southeast Asia Public Affairs Officers in Hong Kong March 1, to consider how to put more effort on persuading overseas Chinese to resist the influence of Communist China. It is planned that a representative of USIA (the Assistant Director for the Far East), will lead the discussion. Representatives from the Department of State, the Committee for Free Asia, FOA, and other agencies that evidence interest, will be invited to participate.

4. Other Coordinating Relationships:

As a result of Reorganization Plans Nos. 7 and 8, the responsibility for public information overseas relating to technical and economic assistance programs was assigned to USIA. The transfer of operational responsibilities has taken place. A subsidiary document sets forth in more detail the respective responsibilities of FOA and USIA on information activities. This document is in final stages of clearance.

Where FOA and MAAG Missions exist appropriate liaison and coordinated operations are maintained through joint meetings and personal consultation. The best utilization of combined resources and facilities is worked out at the field level.

Liaison arrangements between CIA and USIS also exist at every post in the Far East. These arrangements are of particular importance in the case of Formosa where the separation in types of agency activities is less pronounced than elsewhere in the area. In this instance the general agreement between USIA and CIA provides adequate liaison. Coordination on the basis of these arrangements will, it is felt, be accomplished satisfactorily when the new broadcasting facilities go into full time operation.

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FROM:

Operations Coordinating Board (via PP/ICD/Ln
1309 K)

NO.

Copy #51

DATE

JAN 21 1954

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. PP/ICD/Ln	1309 K	JAN 21	1954		file
2. [REDACTED]	1018 K	22 Jan	22 Jan	PYE	1-2
3. [REDACTED]					There are many references to radios in this paper. Pls. return.
4. PP/ICD/Ln	1309 K				2 to 3
5.					1 to 2 -
6.					Pls let me see the Board's action on these matters
7.					OK
8.					
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